

REMARKS

Claims 1-14 are pending and stand rejected. Claim 1 was amended. Claims 5, 6, and 9-14 have been cancelled. Support for the amendment to claim 1 is found in original claim 5.

Restriction.

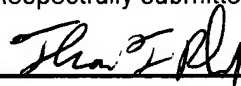
The Examiner has requested restriction of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §121 to:

- I. Claims 1-8 drawn to a copolymer classified in class 526, subclass 317.7.
- II. Claims 9-14, drawn to a free radical retrograde polymerization process, classified in class 526, subclass 73.

Applicant elects Group I, Claims 1-8 for initial examination on the merits, with traverse. Claims 9 – 14 have been cancelled as non-elected claims. This restriction is made with traverse, as Applicant believes the copolymer of claim 1, as amended, cannot be made by a process other than that described in claims 9-14.

It is believed that this response is complete and addresses all issues in the office action. Applicant requests the Examiner to remove the rejections and to pass the present claims, as amended, to allowance at this time.

Respectfully submitted,



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APPENDIX I

MARKED-UP VERSION OF THE CLAIMS

In The Claims:

1. (amended) A block copolymer comprising:
 - a) 4 to 50 percent by weight of (meth)acrylic acid units; and
 - b) from 50 to 95 percent by weight of at least one non-acid ethylenically unsaturated monomer.